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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

9 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

The enemy made no significant gains in the past 24 hours. The situation remains serious, however, with heavy enemy pressure continuing, particularly in the Yongchon-Kyongju area.

Naval forces provided artillery support of UN forces opposing an enemy advance in the east sector, and east and west coastal patrols were maintained.

While bad weather limited UN air forces to 245 sorties, the lowest since mid-July, B-29s bombed industrial and railroad targets in North Korea.

South Sector

The US 27th Regiment repulsed three enemy attacks, one of which was described as a "banzai" attack, the first so far reported in the Korean war. The US 5th Regiment successfully repulsed a frontal attack, but was being harassed in the rear by infiltrating groups. Although the remainder of the sector remained fairly quiet, constant probing patrols and rear area road movements indicated the possibility of further heavy attacks in the Chinju-Masan area. In the northern portion of the sector, west of Changnyong, an enemy attack in battalion strength made slight gains, but was contained by the US 38th Regiment. Despite the withdrawal of some enemy troops to the west bank of the Nakdong River in several bridgehead areas, the enemy has improved the Hyongpung bridgehead and appears able to renew strong attacks in the US 2nd Division zone.

Center Sector

The US 7th Cavalry Regiment repulsed an attack of estimated battalion strength northeast of Waegwan. The US 8th Cavalry Regiment, however,

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was forced by the enemy, probably in regimental strength, to withdraw from the ridge previously gained in the vicinity of Kasan mountain. A large enemy force of unknown strength has been reported moving south toward the Kasan region, possibly indicating greater enemy strength than the four divisions known to be in the Naegwan area. To the east, the ROK 1st and 6th Divisions held the lines against heavy enemy pressure.

East Sector

The situation in the Yongchon-Kyongju area remains fluid. Enemy tank-supported troops entered the city of Yongchon and were driven out, but at latest report had re-entered the city. The North Korean forces hold a railroad station less than four miles southeast of Yongchon. The hostile advances in this area have caused an extension of UN lines around the enemy salient, and a consequent thinning out of forces. Moreover, it appears that only a portion of the North Korean 15th Division has been utilized in the action thus far, with the remainder still in reserve.

In the Angang-Kyongju corridor, no enemy gains have been reported. ROK units made slight withdrawals to the northeast of Kyongju, in the line extending toward Pohang. Yonil airfield is still held by elements of the US 9th Regiment.

Navy

Shelling and night illumination missions were executed by UN naval forces off the east coast in the Pohang area in support of the ground troops. Artillery support was also provided in the south sector, and east and west coast patrols were maintained. A west coast patrol reported mines in the waters off Chinnampo.

Air

UN air forces were limited by bad weather to 245 sorties, only 126 of which were combat missions, the lowest number since mid-July. B-29s, however, had better weather over North Korea and succeeded in bombing the Chosen Nitrogen Explosive Company at Haeju, with good to excellent results reported. Other successful bombing attacks were made against the main rail line between Seoul and Pyongyang.

II. General Situation

According to unofficial reports, the South Korea National Assembly voted on 8 September to ask the UN Security Council for a general offen-

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sive against the North Korean "before harvest time." An Assembly resolution noted "with grave concern" that crops in Communist-held areas may be lost unless UN forces retake the granary of Korea before the September harvest.

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